

# What's going on here?

## Prescribed Fire Prep

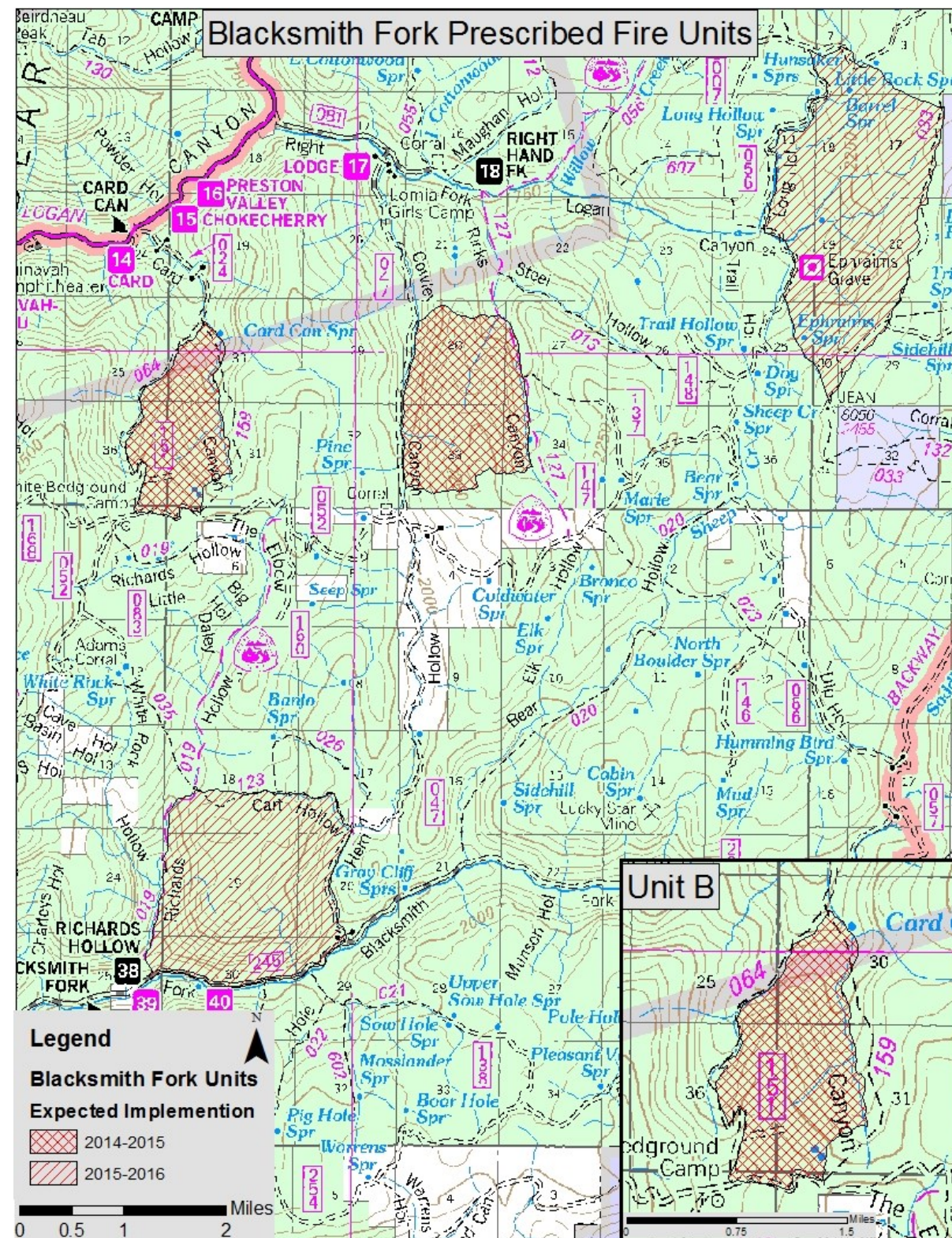
The Card Canyon East and Card Canyon west trails comprise the east and west holding lines for Unit B, one of the Blacksmith Fork Prescribed Fire units. In order to safely and effectively carry out the planned ignition, both trails need to be prepared for implementation.

Prep work on Unit B will be completed over the course of the 2014 summer, with crews being on-site intermittently from June–August.

Crews will be working with chainsaws to open up the two trails for easier ingress and egress of fire personnel during planned ignition and to create better holding lines.

Work will consist of clearing downed logs away from the trails, falling standing dead trees, and clearing brush from alongside the Card Canyon East and Card Canyon West trails.

If you would like more information about the prescribed fires planned on the Logan Ranger District please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/uwcnf> or call (435) 755-3620



## BLACKSMITH FORK PRESCRIBED FIRE PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest fire personnel are planning to burn two units this fall, for a total of 1,937 acres of aspen, brush, and conifer within the Blacksmith Fork prescribed fire project area. Implementation may occur at anytime between September through November 2014, weather permitting. The two units are part of a larger scale project that encompasses a total of four units. Implementation of all four burns will be accomplished over a two to four year period from 2014-2017, dependent on weather and fuel conditions.

The purpose of the project is to restore and maintain age-class diversity among aspen for the benefit of wildlife species, such as elk and mule deer, and to improve forest health.



The majority of the aspen communities in the burn areas are approaching late seral stages due to a lack of natural disturbances. Regeneration of aspen is lacking and many of the mature trees are reaching a state of decadence. In addition, grazing, fire suppression, and other management practices have changed the forest structure and composition, causing a decline in the ecological health of the forests.

Prescribed fire provides for ecosystem maintenance and restoration consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes.

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## **PRESCRIBED FIRES**

Prescribed fires, which are planned ignitions are just one tool used by fire managers to improve forest health by reducing hazardous fuels, improving the quality of watersheds and wild-life habitat.

A prescribed fire only occurs when the temperature, humidity, wind speed and fuel moisture are within the prescribed fire plan objectives. Prescribed fires will be ignited when predicted weather and fuel conditions allow for minimized smoke impact on the air quality and the public's health. Prescribed fires can be ignited by hand, using drip torches or by air using helicopters to drop incendiary devices.

In order to restore fire to its natural role in forests and rangeland, we ignite prescribed fires in the spring and fall when weather conditions allow for lower intensity burning.

Specific objectives may be to reduce the fuels and/or create a mosaic pattern in the vegetation to create cover, forage, and browse areas for wildlife. It can also enhance native plant species and create diversity in vegetation structure and distribution.

We know that fire is essential to the health of our forests and rangelands. Since conditions in many areas are conducive to large, severe wildfires, and because so many people now live in or near forest and rangelands, we need fires to burn in a more controlled way. By igniting prescribed fires, we can maximize the chance that they will burn on our terms. with acceptable effects.

### **Hells Hollow Terra Torch October 2012**





# Blacksmith Fork Prescribed Fire Area 2013

